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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5860

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4085

NODIS DECAPTIONED

PLEASE PASS UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM AND SECDEF AND CHAIRMAN JCS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS PDIP, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT US SECDEF/JCS REPS VISIT WITH ARGENTINE CHIEFS OF SERVICES

1. SUMMARY: ON 26 MAY, DEFENSE AND JCS REPS [redacted] B6
[redacted] CALLED ON CHIEFS OF THE SERVICES, JOINT STAFF, B6
AND MOD AS FOLLOWUP TO VISITS BY THE UNDERSECRETARY 23 AND 24 MAY. WITH EXCEPTION MOD, BRIGADIER KLIX WHO TOOK THE HARD LINES ON ALLEGED U.S. INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFIARS, ALL VISITS WERE POSITIVE IN TONE AND OUTCOME IN TERMS OF REAFFIRMATION OF DESIRE FOR U.S. SPARE PARTS AND TRAINING, IN THAT ORDER, AND FOR PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS. HOWEVER, NO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN WOULD COMMIT ARGENTINA TO EITHER NUMBERS OR A TIMETABLE FOR RELEASE OF DETAINEES OR FOR OTHER SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CALL ON NAVY IN A.M. INCLUDED VADM TORTI, OPS; RADM CASAS, INTEL; AND RADM DAHN, LOGISTICS. TORTI GAVE THE STANDARD RESUME OF COUNTERTERRORISM UNDER THE JUNTA. CASAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TERRORIST THREAT HAS DIMINISHED BUT THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM (SIC) THREATENS THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, PARTICULARLY AGAINST ARGENTINE FISHING REIGHTS AND PETROLEUM ASSETS. DAHN (LOGISTICS) UNDERSCORE NEED FOR
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US SPARE PARTS FOR SHIPS AND NAVAL AIRCRAFTS AND FOR U.S. TRAINING FOR NAVY AND MARINES. WHILE ARGENTINA CONTINUES TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR SUPPORT, CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN U.S.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 20 SEP 2007 200401245

EQUIPMENT IS TOO HIGH TO MAKE NEW SOURCES APPEALING.
[redacted] REFERRED TO UNDERSECRETARY'S VISIT AND TO U.S. B6
DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ARGENTINE MILITARY NEEDS BUT EMPHASIZED THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS WERE NOW ESSENTIAL TO AVOID THE REEFS ON THE WAY TO PORT. TORTI

ASKED U.S. REPS TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE REEFS, I.E., SPECIFICALLY WHAT AREIMPROVEMENTS ARGENTINA NEEDED TO MAKE. U.S. REPS REPLIED THAT THESE DETAILS WERE DISCUSSED BY UNDERSECRETARY WITH VIDELA, ADM MASSERA, AND BRIG. AGOSTI IN EARLIER VISITS. TORTI, IN FIRST OF SEVERAL REFERENCES DURING DAY OF VISITS, MENTIONED THAT ARGENTINA NOW HAS A COMMISSION COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH SERVICE REVIEWING DETAINEES ON CASE BY CASE BASIS AND RECOMMENDING RELEASE ASAP. OTHER SERVICE REPS LATER IN THE DAY ADDED VIEW THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE 3200 PLUS DETAINEES WERE DETAINED UNDER PERON AND HAD SKETCHY OR NON-EXISTENT RECORDS, MAKING REVIEW MORE DIFFICULT. TORTI UNDERSCORED POINT THAT ARGENTINA COULD MAKE NO PROMISES ON A DEFINITE NUMBER OF RELEASES OR A TIMETABLE.

3. CALL ON CHIEF OF AIR FORCE GENERAL STAFF, BRIG. GRAFFIGNA ELICITED THE HISTORICAL LITANY OF TERRORISM AND A TERTIMONIAL TO THE JUNTA FOR PROVIDING SAFETY AND PROSPERITY FOR ITS CITIZENS. GRAFFIGNA EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND U.S., A THEME ECHOED THROUGHOUT THE VISITS EVEN BY HARDLINER KLIX. HE NOTED THAT MANY OF ARGENTINA-S AIR FORCE OFFICERS HAD BEEN TRAINED IN THE U.S. AND THAT THEIR EXPOSURE TO U.S. CULTURE AND DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAD LASTING BENEFIT. HE
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UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING TRAINING IN THE U.S. ON SPARE PARTS, GRAFFIGNA INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, ARGENTINA PREFERS TO BUY FROM THE U.S. THE LACK OF SPARE PARTS HAS ALREADY DEGRADED THE OPERABILITY OF ALL U.S. FURNISHED EQUIPMENT, AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPACT ON READINESS AT AN INCREASING RATE. U.S. REPS EMPHASIZED THE SAME POINTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS MADE DURING THE EARLIER CALL ON VADM TORTI.

4. CALL ON CHIEF OF JOINT STAFF BRIGADIER APELLA INCLUDED REPS OF ARGENTINE ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE AND SURFACED LITTLE THAT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN EARLIER CALLS. APELLA EMPHASIZED THE ONGOING REVIEW OF PEN CASES

OF DETAINMENT (PODER EJECUTIVE NACIONAL - NATIONAL EXECUTIVE POWER) AND THE OFFERS OF RIGHT OF OPTION AS SIGNS OF PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. ON SUBJECT OF DISAPPEARANCES, APELLA OFFERED A PERSONAL OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY ALL PERSON WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED. RADM CASAS INTERJECTED THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CANNOT PROMISE THAT ALL MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES WILL CEASE BECAUSE IT IS PMT ALWAYS THE GOVERNMENT THAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE DISAPPEARANCES.

5. MINISTER OF DEFENSE BRIG. (RET) KLIX OPENED HIS VISIT BY ASKING IF U.S. REPS WERE MAKING A PROTOCOL OR A BUSINESS CALL. WHEN ASKED HIS PREFERENCE, HE TOOK THE CUE TO CRITICIZE THE U.S. SHARPLY FOR THE EMBARGO ON SPARE PARTS, ALLEGING A LACK OF GOOD FAITH IN REFUSING TO SUPPORT EQUIPMENT THAT ARGENTINA HAD PURCHASED IN FULL EXPECTATIONS OF CONTINUED SPARE PARTS SUPPLY. KLIX CONTINUED IN REPLY TO U.S. REPS SHARED CONCERN OVER EMBARGO, BY POINTING OUT THAT ARGENTINA DOES NOT GET INVOLVED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT U.S. APPEARS NOT TO APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES MADE BY COMMUNISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. U.S. REP STATED THAT U.S. SHARES ARGENTINA'S CONCERN OVER SPREAD OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE BUT
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THAT TO ABRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS WHILE FIGHTING TO SECURE THEM IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. KLIX REPLIED THAT TO SECURE HUMAN RIGHTS FOR 26 MILLION PEOPLE, SOMEONE HAD TO DIE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4085

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PLEASE PASS UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM AND SECDEF AND CHAIRMAN JCS

CITING PERU'S PUR-
CHASE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING AS AN EXAMPLE OF COMMUNIST EXPANSION, KLIX EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE FOR ARGENTINA OF BUYING FROM THE U.S. AFTER WORLD WAR II ARGENTINA TURNED TO THE U.S. AND AWAY FROM EUROPE FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. AS A RESULT THERE EXISTS NOW A STRONG BOND BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE U.S. THE ARGENTINES ARE PAINED THAT A FRIEND LIKE THE U.S. IS APPLYING MEASURES AGAINST THEIR COUNTRY. KLIX ACKNOWLEDTED THAT U.S. INTEN-TIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ARE PRAISEWORTHY BUT COMPLAINED THAT SINCE THE U.S. HAD NO LEVERAGE WITH COUNTRIES

IN THE COMMUNIST
ORBIT, IT WAS CONCENTRATING ON ARGENTINA.

6. FINAL CALL OF RATHER LONG DAY WAS ON MG VIOLA, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY. VIOLA TRACED RELATIONS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND U.S. EMPHASIZING THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION ARGENTINES HAVE FOR AMERICANS AND UNDERSCORING ARGENTINA'S INTEREST IN MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. REPS POINT THAT DEMONSTRATED IMPROVEMENTS IN HR ARE NOW NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THOSE RELATIONS IN A MEANINGFUL FASHION IN THE MILITARY SHPERE, VIOLA RESPONDED THAT IM-
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PROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR EIGHT OR NINE MONTHS. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SHOW OPEN AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BUT THAT IS DIFFICULT. VIOLA MADE THE POINT HEARD EARLIER THAT ARGENTINA CANNOT SAY HOW MANY PRISONERS WILL BE RE-LEASED BY A CERTAIN DATE. HE MADE THE POINT, WITH REFERENCE TO TRAINING AND SPARE PARTS FOR THE ARMY, THAT THE PROBLEM OF THEIR UNAVAILABILITY WAS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THE FREEZING OF RELATIONS WHEN ARGENTINA WANTS NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. VIOLA EMPHASIZED AS HAD OTHER THAT 50 PERCENT OF THE PRESENT DETAINEES HAD BEEN DETAINED BY THE PERON GOVERN-MENT AND THAT FEW OF THEIR RECORDS NOW EXISTED. MANY DETAINEES HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WHICH IS NOW KEEPING ACCURATE RECORDS. VIOLA STATED THAT SEC. NEWSOM HAS CHARTS DOCUMENTING THIS FACT. VIOLA CONCLUDED THAT THERE WILL BE REAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HR AREA BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER 1 BUT THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THIS

WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS ENOUGH BY THE U.S.

7. COMMENT: IF IT APPEARS THAT THE CHIEFS OF THE SERVICES DWELT MORE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AREA THAN ON MILITARY MATTERS, IT IS A REFLECTION OF THE PROPORTION BOTH OF HOW MUCH THEY ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING OF EACH FROM THE U.S. AND OF WHERE THEIR GREATEST CONCERNS ARE CENTERED VIS-A-VIS ARGENTINE-U.S. RELATIONS. THEY INDICATED A GENUINE DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY TIES AND TO RECEIVE SPARE PARTS AND TRAINING NOT ONLY FOR THEIR INTRINSIC VALUE BUT FOR THOSE INTANGIBLE BENEFITS CITED ABOVE. THEY EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS BUT ALSO EXHIBITED A HIGH DEGREE OF RESTRAINT AND APPARENT HONESTY IN RESISTING ANY TEMPTATIONS TO PROMISE NUMBER OR DATES OF RELEASES. END COMMENT.
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